

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 20, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q: ON THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH, SINCE IT TOUCHES ON RHODESIA,
CAN YOU SAY WHETHER THE SECRETARY FELT ANY PROGRESS WAS
MADE IN THE MEETING WITH JOSHUA NKOMO AND WHETHER AN ALL-
PARTIES CONFERENCE STILL REMAINS A LIVE POSSIBILITY?

A: YES, WE THINK, WITHOUT GOING INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE
CONVERSATION THAT MR. NKOMO, MR. CHRISTOPHER, MR. AARON
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AND OTHERS HAD, THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ALL-PARTIES CONFER-
ENCE REMAINS A LIVE POSSIBILITY AND A REAL APPROACH TO THE
PROBLEMS THAT FACE RHODESIA.

Q: WHAT HAS TO BE DONE NOW, IN THE AMERICAN VIEW, TO MAKE
SUCH A POSSIBILITY A REALITY?

A: I THINK AT THIS POINT, SINCE THE PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAVE AGREED THAT THEY WOULD GO TO SUCH
A CONFERENCE, IT REMAINS WHERE IT HAS BEEN, WHICH IS THE
AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE REPRESENTING THE INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT TO PARTICIPATE.

Q: MR. NKOMO USED THE PHRASE "OUT-OF-DATE" FOR THE ALL-
PARTIES CONFERENCE LAST NIGHT. IT SOUNDS LIKE HE HAS
WITHDRAWN HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR IT.

A: NO. IT IS NOT OUR IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD NOT
PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A MEETING.

Q: LOW AND GRAHAM ARE GOING BACK TO RHODESIA, IS THAT
CORRECT?

A: I AM NOT SURE WHERE THEY ARE TODAY. THEY ARE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND THEY HAVE BEEN. THEY WERE IN SALISBURY. I AM NOT SURE, BUT THEY ARE CONTINUING THEIR ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS PARTIES, INCLUDING THE FRONT-LINE STATES, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS, AS WELL AS THE INTERNAL PEOPLE WHO THEY WERE TALKING TO UNTIL TWO OR THREE DAYS AGO.

Q: NKOMO SEEMED TO WAVER A LITTLE BIT ON HIS WILLINGNESS, THE WILLINGNESS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, TO GO TO A CONFERENCE.

IS IT THE AMERICAN VIEW THAT IF YOU COULD GET SMITH AND
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THE BLACKS TO AGREE TO GO TO SUCH A CONFERENCE, THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ALSO WILL ATTEND?

A: YES. I HAVE NO DOUBT ON THAT, ON THE BASIS OF WHAT THEY HAVE TOLD US IN THE PAST. HAVING NO DOUBTS IS A DANGEROUS THING.

Q: ON A RELATED SUBJECT, THAT STUDY THAT WAS UNDERTAKEN A MONTH OR SO AGO ABOUT SUPPOSEDLY INHIBITING LEGISLATION, HAS THAT BEEN COMPLETED OR IS THAT A DEAD ITEM AT THIS POINT?

A: OUR STUDY WENT OVER TO THE WHITE HOUSE, AND I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BEYOND THAT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS BEING DONE WITH IT.

Q: WHEN DID IT GO?

A: I DON'T REMEMBER. I'LL SEE, MARVIN.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHETHER IT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A RECOMMENDATION THAT SOME OF THESE SPECIFIC PIECES OF LEGISLATION BE RESCINDED?

A: MARVIN, THAT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ADDRESS, EVEN IF I WERE SURE, BECAUSE THAT DOES QUALIFY AS AN INTERNAL WORKING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM THIS BUILDING. BUT LET ME SEE IF I CAN FIND OUT WHAT TIME IT WENT OVER.

Q: WASN'T IT JUST THIS BUILDING THAT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMING UP WITH THE STUDY?

A: I BELIEVE THAT WE HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT.
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Q: HODDING, THERE WAS AN INITIAL RELEASE ON THAT THAT

WAS SIMPLY A COMPILATION OF STATUTES THAT DIDN'T GO INTO ANY DETAIL AND DIDN'T TRY TO EVALUATE WHETHER THE STATUTES WERE WISE OR UNWISE.

IS THE STUDY THAT WENT OVER TO THE WHITE HOUSE MORE DETAILED, DOES IT HAVE A GREATER SCOPE, AND DOES IT ATTEMPT TO DO MORE THAN JUST LIST THE STATUTES?

A: AGAIN, I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO INTO DETAIL ON WHAT WE DID WITH THIS PIECE OF WORK. IT IS FOR THE PRESIDENT, FOR THE WHITE HOUSE, AND BEYOND THAT, I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO GO RIGHT NOW.

I WILL SEE IF THERE IS ANYTHING MORE I CAN GET ON IT.

Q: CAN YOU SAY WHETHER IT WAS DONE PRIMARILY BY THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, OR DID IT GO THROUGH OTHER BUREAUS WHICH HAD OTHER TYPES OF INPUT INTO IT?

A: I DOUBT THAT I CAN SAY, BUT I WILL SEE.

Q: THE STUDY AROSE OUT OF DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF OUR BECOMING MORE INVOLVED WITH SOME INSURGENTES IN ANGOLA AND PLACES LIKE THAT, AS I RECALL. THAT WAS THE PUBLIC DISCUSSION. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE PRIVATE, THE INTERNAL, SOURCE OF INITIATIVE WAS.

A: I GUESS I CAN'T LEAVE THAT QUITE UNCHECKED. I THINK IT AROSE OUT OF A DISCUSSION AT THE WHITE HOUSE WITH SOME CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP IN WHICH IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE LEADERS HAD AGREED THAT OUR ABILITY TO HELP IN SOME SITUATIONS, IN WHICH OUR ALLIES MIGHT BE IMPERILED, MIGHT BE INHIBITED BY CERTAIN LEGIS-

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LATION. SEVERAL CONGRESSMAN CAME OUT AND SPOKE ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S FRUSTRATION, AS I REMEMBER. THEREAFTER THAT WAS PICKED UP, AND WE ANNOUNCED THAT WE WERE STUDYING

THE LEGISLATION TO SEE WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE SO INHIBITORY THAT WE MIGHT WANT TO SEE IT CHANGED.

Q: LET ME START AGAIN ON THE QUESTION, THEN. HAS THE PERSPECTIVE IN WHICH THE STUDY WAS MADE BEEN CHANGED IN ANY WAY BY OUR NEW ATTITUDE EXPRESSED BY THE SECRETARY THIS MORNING ON HOPING FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA AND BY THE INDICATION WHICH WE HAVE HAD FROM STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A RESPONSIVENESS FROM ANGOLA ON TRYING TO WORK OUT THE PROBLEM ALONG THE ZAIRE-ANGOLAN BORDER?

A: I THINK THAT THE POINT OF THE STUDY WAS TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHERE THE LEGISLATION STOOD IN WAYS THAT MIGHT PREVENT US FROM HELPING FRIENDS IN TIME OF NEED.

I THINK THAT EVENTS IN AFRICA OVER THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE CREATED A SITUATION IN WHICH THE IMMEDIACY OF THE PROBLEM HAS RECEDED A LITTLE BIT SIMPLY BECAUSE THE ZAIRIAN SITUATION STABILIZED, AND THE INVADERS HAD GONE BACK ACROSS THE BORDER FOR THE MOST PART. I SAY FOR THE MOST PART BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW IF THERE ARE SCATTERED FOLK AROUND OR NOT.

NONETHELESS, I THINK THAT THE BASIS FOR THE STUDY HAD A LONGER-RANGE IMPLICATION THAN JUST THAT, AND IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CALLED OFF, AS I AM SUGGESTING IT HASN'T BEEN CALLED OFF. THE STUDY HAS GONE OVER TO THE WHITE

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